

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INSTITUTIONS REGISTRATION
DEPARTMENT



FOR THE YEAR 1909-1910

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CITY OF BOSTON
PRINTING DEPARTMENT
1910



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CITY OF BOSTON,
INSTITUTIONS REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT,
BOSTON, February 15, 1910.

HON. JOHN F. FITZGERALD,
Mayor of the City of Boston:

SIR,—The Institutions Registration Department respectfully submits its thirteenth annual report for the year ending January 31, 1910.

The department employs, in addition to the registrar and two examining physicians, a force of eleven persons. No new work has been undertaken.

The status of the department remains what it has always been, and it is therefore unnecessary to restate its duties.

COMMITMENT OF INSANE.

The department continues to receive applications for the commitment of the insane and of epileptics and dipsomaniacs.

Chapter 504, Acts of 1909, took effect July 1, 1909. This was an act to revise and codify laws relating to insane persons. Several important changes relating to the above class of patients were made by this law. The Commonwealth assumed the liability for support of sane epileptics and dipsomaniacs.

Heretofore the liability was assumed by the cities and towns wherein these patients had legal settlements.

Another important change was that the word "insane" was eliminated from the name of the various hospitals, which are now to be known as the Boston State Hospital, Worcester State Hospital, Taunton State Hospital, Westborough State Hospital, Northampton State Hospital, Danvers State Hospital, Foxborough State Hospital, Monson State Hospital, Worcester State Asylum, Medfield State Asylum, Gardner State Colony and Wrentham State School.

Another important change was that persons so addicted to the intemperate use of narcotics or stimulants as to have lost the power of self-control can be committed. Heretofore, we have been unable to commit persons addicted to the use of drugs. We could only commit those subject to dipsomania or inebriety. This law gives us the power to commit male drug users to the Foxborough State Hospital, and female drug users may be committed to one of the other state hospitals.

Sane epileptics can be admitted to the Monson State Hospital upon a certificate signed by one physician and without an order of the judge. Previously a certificate signed by two physicians and an order of the judge was necessary.

Commitments of the insane were as follows:

	1909-10.	1908-09.
Boston State Hospital.....	259	276
Danvers State Hospital.....	68	106
Westborough State Hospital.....	112	81
Taunton State Hospital	69	59
Worcester State Hospital.....	131	109
Bridgewater State Hospital.....	6	4
Totals.	645	635

The commitments to Monson State Hospital of epileptic patients numbered 41. Last year we committed 39.

The commitments to Foxborough State Hospital numbered 172. Last year we committed 126.

There were sent to the Observation Hospital, Deer Island, 224 patients, a decrease of 34 patients from the preceding year.

INVESTIGATION OF SETTLEMENTS.

This department receives all applications for admission to the almshouses and determines the settlement of the applicants.

For the year ending January 31, 1910, a total of 7,793 settlements were investigated. To the State Infirmary there were sent 3,269 persons; to the Boston Almshouse and Hospital, Long Island, 1,261; to the almshouse in Charlestown, 98.

There was a decrease from the preceding year of 277 persons sent to the State Infirmary; of 92 sent to the Boston Almshouse and Hospital, and of 9 sent to the almshouse in Charlestown.

GENERAL REMARKS.

John Koren, statistician, connected with this department since 1899, resigned September 30, 1909, to engage in other work.

A great deal of work is done by the department, which can not be reduced to figures. Information must be given and details explained to the many applicants who seek admission for themselves or others to the various hospitals.

We repeat what has been said in several previous reports, that the waiting rooms for applicants are unfit, and the office facilities for handling the work are inadequate.

Investigations of Settlements, etc.; Medical Examinations and Commitments of Insane, Epileptics and Dipsomaniacs; Admissions to Almshouses, 1909-1910.

DURING THE WEEK ENDING.	ADMISSION TO ALMSHOUSES.					COMMITMENTS OF THE INSANE.										GRAND TOTALS.	
	State Infirmary, Tewksbury.	Almshouse, Long Island.	Almshouse, Charles- town.	State Sanatorium.	Total.	Deer Island Hos- pital.	Boston State Hos- pital.	Danvers State Hos- pital.	Westborough State Hospital.	Taunton State Hos- pital.	Worcester State Hospital.	Bridgewater State Hospital.	Foxborough State Hospital.	Monson State Hos- pital.	Total.	Admission and Commitments.	Settlements Inves- tigated.
February	120	32	18	5	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	13	112	147
	135	30	7	5	104	6	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	2	26	130	153
	131	29	7	4	93	4	11	11	8	8	10	10	10	10	33	126	161
	79	20	16	4	60	4	5	6	4	4	2	2	2	1	15	75	107
March	110	21	21	8	80	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	22	102	146
	121	22	26	7	95	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	18	113	162
	103	20	14	2	81	2	6	5	3	3	2	2	2	2	20	101	137
	125	24	14	5	99	5	9	2	1	1	4	4	3	1	21	120	162
April	100	18	17	8	75	5	5	5	2	2	4	4	2	1	15	90	133
	117	29	14	15	83	4	10	10	2	2	4	1	2	1	18	101	146
	121	25	24	13	74	6	7	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	22	108	168
	100	17	7	5	85	6	6	6	5	5	2	2	1	2	21	95	127
May	111	29	16	5	85	1	11	11	3	3	3	3	1	3	20	105	147
	136	39	12	11	108	3	9	9	3	3	2	2	1	3	17	125	176
	116	36	15	4	85	11	5	2	9	9	3	3	7	1	26	111	148
	110	24	9	10	76	11	5	11	6	6	1	1	1	1	24	100	142
June	103	24	23	15	72	8	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	4	16	88	154
	114	28	6	15	65	3	1	15	3	3	1	1	3	1	31	96	134
	122	34	9	6	96	7	1	9	3	3	1	1	3	1	19	115	148
	98	12	8	5	77	5	1	4	2	2	9	1	5	1	16	93	127
1909.	133	27	18	12	98	70	23	10	4	1	1	1	1	1	23	121	168

INSTITUTIONS REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

July	3	125	28	21	10	...	15	69	27	1	2	99	5	2	...	1	1	...	4	...	3	1	16	115	167																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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FINANCIAL.

The total amount of the appropriation was \$22,500; \$20,000 was originally appropriated and a transfer of \$2,500 was made later to enable the department to meet its bills. We expended \$22,413.09.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM P. FOWLER,
Institutions Registrar.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR.

Salaries	\$15,358 39
Medical attendance	3,029 00
Transportation	1,695 45
Horse keeping	1,678 05
Printing	170 51
Office expenses	89 37
Postage	108 00
Telephone	136 68
Food	63 15
Stationery	84 49
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	<u>\$22,413 09</u>



